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# ✖ Introduction to Worship ✖ in the United Church of Christ

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## CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

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What is Christian worship? The answers to that question reflect the rich diversity of Christ's church and account for more than a few of its divisions. There is no definition that exhausts the scope of the question. Every answer raises more questions and cautions humility in the presence of all that is holy. Where definitions are elusive, descriptions become an alternative.

Christian worship cannot be understood apart from the Jewish worship that first cradled and nurtured it. Like worship in Judaism, Christian worship is the glad response of total individuals-through "heart, soul, strength, and mind"-to the saving acts of God in history.<sup>1</sup> It is the communal and personal celebration in the universal church of God's love for creation and for every human being. This divine love is revealed in God's gracious covenant with the people of Israel and in God's coming into the world in Jesus Christ.

Christian worship is more than a passive response to God's revelation. It is in itself a Pentecostal proclamation. It both announces the good news of God's love for all the world and invites all people to share God's saving embrace. This active response would not be possible without the presence of the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit who endows the community of faith and individual Christians with the gifts that are necessary for God's service. All that Christians are and do, corporately and individually, is worship, liturgy, the work of praise and thanksgiving.<sup>2</sup> The words and acts commonly called *worship* cannot rightly be separated from Christians' faithful response to God in words and acts of love and justice for all people.<sup>3</sup> That is the transparent meaning of Jesus' liberating command: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."<sup>4</sup>

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## BIBLICAL HERITAGE

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Christian worship, because it is the active response to God's loving initiative, is rooted in the biblical witness to God's saving deeds in history.<sup>5</sup> From the saga of Adam and Eve to John's mystical vision of a new heaven and a new earth, the Bible tells the story of God's redeeming love. Holy scripture provides the trustworthy and normative record of the history of salvation. Its luminous pages inspire, inform, and instruct the church's worship through all the centuries.

It is clear in the New Testament that Jesus Christ cherished and shared in the three fountains of Jewish spiritual nurture that flowed from the Old Testament and shaped the worship of the early church: the temple, the synagogue, and the Jewish home. Each provided distinctive but complementary contributions to the full worship life of faithful Jews.<sup>6</sup> Although Jesus occasionally criticized the abuse of customs and ceremonies practiced in these places, Jesus honored them with his presence, prayer, and preaching.<sup>7</sup> At the Last Supper, Jesus' very choice of words indicated that he knew and willingly used the prayers and blessings familiar to the people of his time.<sup>8</sup>

After the resurrection, Christians, at first, continued to participate in the worship at the temple and the synagogue and to observe the set hours of daily prayer, certain fasts, and other acts of domestic Jewish piety. When resistance to the Christian movement made association with the temple and the synagogue untenable, Christians opened their own homes as places for the church to gather.

Within the New Testament itself, there is evidence of the gradual coming together of

customs and ceremonies formerly celebrated separately in the temple, synagogue, and Jewish home. Christians assembled in homes on Sunday, the weekly commemoration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. There they participated in worship, incorporating both a scripture service and a meal that included bread and wine.

Worship in word and sacrament, celebrated weekly on the little Easter that Sunday quickly became, emerged in a primitive pattern that has shaped Christian liturgy to the present day.<sup>9</sup> This *Book of Worship* seeks to be faithful to this heritage and crowns every service of the church with the abundant witness of scripture.

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## ECUMENICAL HISTORY

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Ecumenism is the vocation of separated Christians to celebrate their unity in Jesus Christ and to make that unity more visible as the Holy Spirit guides the church into all truth. It is a vocation as old as the church itself. Within the New Testament, Christians of differing points of view struggled to live in harmony in the one Body of Christ. The Council of Jerusalem is evidence enough that Jewish Christians and Gentile Christians labored patiently to affirm diversity that did not compromise the identity and unity of the church as one people of God.<sup>10</sup>

Current understanding of the worship of the New Testament church is assisted by insights made available from the literature of the church of the first four centuries. The discovery in modern times of much of this literature, particularly the *Didache*, the Apostolic Tradition of Hippolytus, and the journal of Egeria, provides texts more ancient than those available to the Protestant reformers of the sixteenth century.<sup>11</sup> This informative literature, when studied in relation to the New Testament, leads to fuller appreciation of the trials and treasures of Christian worship in the formative centuries of the church, better understanding of the liturgical development of the medieval period, and the discernment of the broad shape that gives Christian worship its enduring identity.<sup>12</sup>

Ironically, many insights into the worship that united the early church have developed as a consequence of disputes that threatened Christian unity. Were it not for the impassioned concern of Hippolytus to interpret his beliefs to those who disagreed with him, there would be no detailed description of Christian worship in A.D. 215.<sup>13</sup>

In a similar way, modern Christians are the beneficiaries of other information because one part of the church tried on occasion to force its form of worship on some minority, only to discover that uninvited ecumenical contact of this kind rarely left the majority unchanged!<sup>14</sup> The sixteenth century Reformation provides a wealth of evidence that the

various Protestant reformers and their Roman Catholic colleagues did not permit fragmentation of the church to isolate them from one another. The extent to which they maintained ecumenical dialogue as they led their respective movements puts their zealous followers of later generations to shame. Nowhere does their devotion to ecumenical faithfulness show itself more profoundly than in their common concern for the right worship of God.<sup>15</sup> The confessional liturgies developed during this time are full of ecumenical affinities.

More recently, a liturgical renewal movement has arisen that is so thoroughly ecumenical that the strands of its history are difficult to trace.<sup>16</sup> Protestants rejoice to find in Roman Catholicism a renewed emphasis on the place of preaching and full congregational participation in worship. Roman Catholics celebrate the renewed interest of Protestants in the sacrament of Holy Communion and in the power of liturgical symbols.

This renewed appreciation for the unitive wholeness of word and sacrament promises to correct what Karl Barth defined as *torso* worship. After criticizing Roman Catholics for sacramental worship that lacks responsible preaching and Protestants for sermon services that lack the sacraments, he remarked, "Both types of service are impossible."<sup>17</sup> He cautioned that in Sunday worship the preaching and hearing of the sermon are compromised when the opportunity to participate in Holy Communion is denied. In a similar way, faithful sharing in the sacrament is compromised when the preaching of the word is omitted or diminished in its importance.

Although John Calvin spoke eloquently of the place of the sermon, as did Luther and other reformers of the sixteenth century, he resisted every attempt to drive a wedge between word and sacrament. He boldly asserted that the sermon is itself sacramental in the sense that it is the verbal articulation of the same Word met in the sacrament of Holy Communion. Nonetheless, one does not displace the other. An order for word *and* sacrament remains normative for Sunday worship.

This conviction has been reaffirmed recently by Christians of diverse traditions who see word and sacrament as a unitive whole. *Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry* states: "Since the *anamnesis* [recalling, remembering] of Christ is the very content of the preached word as it is of the eucharistic meal, each reinforces the other. The celebration of the eucharist properly includes the proclamation of the word."<sup>18</sup>

In addition to this convergence, from the rich worship life of the Eastern Orthodox churches, Protestants and Roman Catholics are learning how to stand in awe of the mystery of God and how to resist the scholasticism that reduces an individual to intellect alone. Everywhere, Christians moved by the Holy Spirit remind the churches of the charismatic treasury of gifts among the people of God.

In 1963 the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches reported that "there is in the New Testament a greater variety of forms and expressions of worship than in the majority of divided churches and traditions today."<sup>19</sup> Since that time, the churches, often acting ecumenically, have experienced growth in their liturgical life that reflects the closeness of their ecumenical relationships. They have discovered the richness of an enlarged diversity within themselves that makes each of them more truly universal and sets aside many of the confining stereotypes of the past. There are responsible voices currently saying for the first time that "the liturgies now in use in the separated churches are no longer a cause of division. Such causes lie elsewhere."<sup>20</sup>

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## THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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The youthfulness of a church born in 1957 might suggest to some that it has not yet had adequate opportunity to accumulate what purists call *history*. It has! Behind its recent past stand the distinguished histories of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Churches. Through these churches, roots are deep in the reform movements of the American frontier and the Swiss, German, and English Reformations and also penetrate beyond the sixteenth century to the Latin church of the West and to the early church that once knew a remarkable degree of unity throughout the Roman Empire. In matters of worship, and all other matters, the United Church of Christ is the inheritor of this history with all its splendor and shame and is responsible for appropriating now the great lessons this history is able to teach.

Religious history in the United States of America affirms that the United Church of Christ is a church of European origins. It is also a church of Black, American Indian, Hispanic, Oriental, and other people who share one diverse household of faith that makes the United Church of Christ a humble microcosm of the church throughout the world. It is also a church of women and men, ordained people and lay people, single people and married people, children and youth and adults, rich and poor, people with few disabling conditions and those with more. The United Church of Christ is local churches, associations, conferences, instrumentalities, and the General Synod.

At the same time, the United Church of Christ claims its place in the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church of Jesus Christ which is the home of all Christians. It strives to participate responsibly in the ecumenical movement.

The United Church of Christ is not only these things. It is also becoming. The clock and the calendar announce that the United Church of Christ is making history. Part of that unfolding history is represented in this *Book of Worship*, requested by the Eleventh

General Synod in 1977 for use in the United Church of Christ. This endeavor has looked thankfully to the traditions of the churches that presently constitute the United Church of Christ. In the preparation of the *Book of Worship*, earlier service books of these churches, along with documents that represent the Puritan and free church traditions, were carefully studied.

Like the venerable publications used in its preparation and in words borrowed from three of them, this *Book of Worship* seeks to "conserve the best in the tradition of worship" found in the denomination's past and to "draw upon the treasures of the historic and universal church."<sup>21</sup> It is "offered as a guide and help in public worship"<sup>22</sup> in order "to preserve unity of spirit within diversity of forms"<sup>23</sup> in the proclamation of the word of God and the celebration of the sacraments. Its only authority is its intrinsic worth as an imperfect human resource for those who seek to worship God in the beauty and duty of holiness.

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## THE CONTEMPORARY CONTEXT OF WORSHIP

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The church is called in every generation to celebrate the full message of salvation in the context of the particular time and place given it by God. Jesus Christ is "the same yesterday, today, and for ever,"<sup>24</sup> but the language, customs, and historical situation of the people of God are continually changing. The *Book of Worship* reflects the intention of the United Church of Christ to respond faithfully to God's saving initiative in ways that speak to the spiritual hunger of all people in this time and place. Several contemporary emphases that stem from this intention inform the services contained in the *Book of Worship* and deserve brief attention.

The Eleventh General Synod explicitly instructed that a *Book of Worship* be characterized by language that is truly inclusive with respect to God and to human beings. Although the generic use of masculine terms may have been acceptable in the past, it excludes and offends many sensitive people of faith today. Further, the use of only masculine nouns and pronouns for God and of masculine generic terms for humankind has hidden the rich feminine imagery for God and God's people in scripture. The rediscovery of the complementarity of female and male metaphors in the Bible and the literature of the early church forbids Christians to settle for literary poverty in the midst of literary riches.<sup>25</sup>

In response to this rediscovery, care has been taken to avoid exclusively male terms for God. For example, the word *God* is frequently used where the masculine word *Lord* predominated in the past. *Lord* is retained as an important title to identify Jesus Christ, but not the only title. In general, masculine language is not used in reference to Jesus

Christ except where there is some necessity to identify Jesus by gender. In a similar way, diverse masculine and feminine images are used for the people of God. The witness of women of faith in the biblical story is treated with the same dignity accorded the witness of men of faith.

Inclusive language is far more than a matter of male and female imagery .Behind the aesthetic dimension of human words towers the prophetic issue of social justice. It is obvious to people of goodwill that words have the power to exploit and disfranchise as well as to affirm and liberate

those to whom they refer.<sup>26</sup> Language that is truly inclusive affirms not only human sexuality but also racial and ethnic background and diverse stages of maturity from infancy to old age. It shows respect for people with handicapping conditions, people who do not live in the traditional nuclear family, people who suffer addictions, and others who intentionally identify themselves by some particular need or characteristic. If people do not find themselves in the language of worship or find themselves there in derogatory images, it should not be surprising if they absent themselves from the worshiping community.<sup>27</sup>

This *Book of Worship* seeks to underscore the inseparable connection between liturgy and ethics not only by means of inclusive language but also by maintaining a biblical tension between Christian nurture and Christian witness. The services show that liturgy is a recalling of God's acts in history for the world and its salvation and at the same time a communal and personal answering of God's call to service in the world.

The issue of inclusive language and other concerns for social justice point toward even larger areas of wholeness. In practically all churches that are experiencing liturgical renewal, there is a deep regard for denominational traditions that have been cherished, as well as an ecumenical longing to explore parts of the gospel that have received inadequate attention within a particular denomination.<sup>28</sup> This *Book of Worship*, for example, reflects with a new clarity not only the cross of Jesus Christ that dominates much of Reformation theology but also the fullness of Christ's life, death, and resurrection. The services, especially the services of word and sacrament, invite participants to remember the whole story of the history of salvation and to celebrate that story as the church that stands on the Easter side of the cross and tomb.

Out of respect for the total person, the services address human senses as well as rational minds. They offer opportunities for music and other arts, various postures and movements, silence, and the full active participation of the congregation in acts and words that are readily shared. The services also recognize that people have differing abilities to use these senses and acknowledge that physical limitations are to be considered as worship is planned. There is a reverence before God's mystery and majesty and a reticence to use power language, military imagery, or the jargon of triumphalism either for God or the church.

This reverence for God calls forth reverence for the image of God in all human beings including children. Today the question of how children relate to worship is being pursued with renewed interest. The central place given to children in the preaching of Jesus and the caution that unless people become like little children they cannot enter the realm of God call into question some prohibitions concerning children at worship.<sup>29</sup>

The role of children in Holy Communion is especially debated. Until recently the principal objection to their participation in the sacrament was their inability to "discern the body of Christ" in the meal (1 Corinthians 11:29). Recent biblical scholarship challenges this interpretation of scripture. It recognizes in Paul's words not a concern for a cognitive understanding of *sacramental* presence but a concern for an *experience* of the body of Christ present in the *community* of faith that Christ gathers as the church.<sup>30</sup>

With this communal understanding, in which discernment is primarily a recognition of *belonging* and not merely a matter of intellectual comprehension, adult Christians are urged to ask "whether, by excluding children from the Lord's Supper, we are not equally guilty [with the offending Corinthians] of failing to 'discern the body' and, therefore, of endangering the reality of the supper."<sup>61</sup>

In *Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry*, the churches are asked to study the place of children in worship with specific reference to Holy Communion.<sup>32</sup> Churches are urged by Christian educators and others to include children in all aspects of church life as fully as possible. How churches respond to children "is of importance, not simply as a liturgical concern but as an ethical concern," because God calls the church to "receive them as gifts."<sup>63</sup>

There is a renewed awareness in the *Book of Worship* of the church as the church of Pentecost, the church of the Holy Spirit, living between the time of Christ's coming at Bethlehem and Christ's coming again at the close of history. The full texts of the prayers for Holy Communion and baptism include reminders that the great cloud of witnesses and the church of today form the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church. At the center of all the human words stands the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of all creation, who says to the servant church anew, "If I be lifted up, I will draw all unto me."<sup>64</sup>

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## THE LEADERSHIP OF WORSHIP

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The line between leading the people of God in worship and displacing them in worship is a precariously thin one. It is significant that in the New Testament, as in Judaism, the leadership of worship was a shared responsibility. In the church of the first four centuries, this collegial model of leadership prevailed. It was common for several people to concelebrate word and sacrament in services full of congregational participation.

Then leadership fell into the hands of an officiant acting alone. "Services came to be celebrated for the people rather than by them," and the worship of God "became a spectator sport."<sup>65</sup> In churches in the East and West alike, liturgical action became remote from the laity, who often paid for rites they did not bother to attend.

The Reformation of the sixteenth century only partially restored the active role of the congregation. In the twentieth century there has been a remarkable resurgence of congregational involvement in the planning and leading of worship. There are hopeful signs that Christian worship today is approaching the level of participation evident in the early church.

This *Book of Worship* is offered to all who plan, lead, and participate in the worship of God. It is especially important in the United Church of Christ, where the freedom of local churches to order their own worship life is steadfastly maintained, that great care be taken to exercise that freedom

with the commensurate responsibility that it requires. It is also a matter of honesty to recognize that the distinction between *liturgical* worship and *free* worship is often more imagined than real. It has rightly been observed that fixed orders can breathe with variety, that informal ones are

characterized by discernible patterns, and that both "are equally ritual because it is impossible to vary them every time they are used."<sup>66</sup> John Calvin, a pioneer in liturgical reform, cautioned even as he reshaped the worship of his time that "we ought not to resort to innovation rashly or frequently, or for trivial causes."<sup>67</sup> His counsel is of special relevance during the liturgical revolution of this generation.

What is the relationship between a service book of any kind and freedom, spontaneity, and informality in the worship life of the church? In the United Church of Christ the relationship is determined by each local church. Even local churches of the United Church of Christ that share the heritage of using a book of worship covet nonetheless the right to do so in ways appropriate to their local customs and felt needs.

Contrary to popular stereotypes, those local churches that trace their roots to the Puritan and free church traditions have consistently reserved the right not only to refrain from using prayer books but also to *use* them. Henry Martyn Dexter, writing about Congregational worship from the colonial days to 1880, made this assessment of how *free* the free church tradition can be:

Any Congregational church, whose taste and sense of expediency may so incline it, is at perfect liberty to order its worship by the liturgy of the Church of England, or the Protestant or Reformed Episcopal Church of the United States, or by a liturgy of its own. So long as it does nothing which shall give reasonable ground of offense to the other churches with which it is in fellowship, it may order its prayers, its praise, and all the methods of its worship, to its own entire content; and its pastor, remaining true to our fundamentals of doctrine and polity,

though enrobed and endowed... with "chasuble, albe, amice, stole, maniple and zone, with two blessed towels, and all their appendages," would remain, in good faith and entirely, a Congregational minister still.<sup>38</sup>

Clearly, free church does not translate simplistically into a church free *from* all forms. Rather, it denotes a church that includes within the parameters of its freedom the uninhibited liberty to use whatever forms prove to be consistent with its understanding and practice of the gospel.

Where the *Book of Worship* is received in this spirit, it will not compromise the freedom, spontaneity, or informality of the worship life of any local church. It may, in fact, broaden the diversity and deepen the experience of those very characteristics. One thing that it will not do, when used properly, is relieve the local church of the responsibility of providing careful planning and prepared leadership for its worship life. History is replete with examples of empty and corrupt worship that afflicted the people of God precisely because a responsibility that belonged to the whole people of God was abandoned into the hands of the few who eagerly assumed it. The *Book of Worship* is an invitation to every local church to commit itself anew to the hard work of the people of God—the *lietourgia* (worship)—that is the vocation of every Christian and of every local church.

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## PASTORAL LEADERSHIP

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Ordained ministers of the United Church of Christ, by virtue of their ordination vows, the traditions of the church, and the constitutions and bylaws of local churches, are entrusted with primary responsibility for preaching and teaching the gospel, administering the sacraments and rites of the church, and exercising pastoral care and leadership. Their role in leading worship has been compared with that of a first chair musician or a concertmaster rather than with that of a conductor. It is clearly the function of ordained ministers to work in close collaboration with lay people in planning and leading worship. This role presumes that adequate preparation is provided and that ordained ministers seek constantly to grow in their understanding of the theology and practice of worship.

As ordained ministers seek to fulfill their partnership with lay people in worship, it is imperative that adequate time be allowed for study, creative planning, and the rehearsal of services that may require it. Attention will be given not only to the words of worship but also to symbolism, choreography, and dramatic integrity. Shared leadership in the conduct of services will permit different people to fulfill specific roles without leaving the assembly confused about who is presiding.

Ordained ministers and lay people who share the leadership of worship have a particular responsibility to consult and cooperate with church musicians. If the ecumenical lectionary or another schedule of readings, the church year, and special emphases of any other kind are to inform worship in an integrated manner, church musicians will need

opportunity for the selection and rehearsal of appropriate music.

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## LAY LEADERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION

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Lay leaders of worship, in the exercise of the priesthood of all believers, bear a responsibility to prepare for their ministry. They need to be people of prayer, informed concerning the worship heritage of the church, and willing to participate in available training for the roles they assume. Their ministry may include roles of leadership-leading various parts of the service, reading scripture, preaching the sermon. Their roles may be supportive-ushers, acolytes, servers of Holy Communion, choir members, greeters, floral artists, or other roles approved by the local church.

The entire worshiping congregation is called to exercise its priesthood through dynamic participation in all aspects of the church's liturgical life. Christians do not go to church; they gather as the church. There is mutual responsibility of chancel and pew for the proclamation of the word and the celebration of the sacraments.

This full involvement of the whole people of God in worship is affirmed not only by churches of the Protestant Reformation but also by the Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches as well. In answer to those who say, "I don't get anything out of going to church," an Orthodox theologian replies, "If you really expect to 'get something' out of church attendance, you must give. It is not enough just to sit in church. You must take an active part in its worship."<sup>69</sup> The Second Vatican Council of the Roman Catholic Church urged that all the faithful "be led to that full, conscious, and active participation in liturgical celebrations which is demanded by the very nature of the liturgy."<sup>70</sup>

Concerning the focus of the current liturgical renewal taking place in that church, the Council added, "This full and active participation by all the people is the aim to be considered above all else, for it is the primary and indispensable source from which the faithful are to derive the true Christian spirit."<sup>71</sup>

What does this active participation require? Clearly it involves more than being present at a place of worship at a stated hour. That approach to worship presumes that worshipers are the audience and that God, or God's servants in the chancel, are the performers. The action, in fact, is the other way around. The worshiping congregation, including those who lead it, are the ones who offer worship, and God is the one to whom it is offered. This awareness places significant responsibility upon all the people of God to live daily lives rooted and grounded in the gospel of Jesus Christ and to seek the presence of the Holy Spirit in prayer, study, planning, and preparation, culminating in acts of worship filled with the grace and power of Pentecost. When reflection and action are joined in this way, Luther's emphasis on the *consolations* of grace and Calvin's emphasis on the

*demands* of grace find mutual correction and wholeness.<sup>42</sup> Responsibility is also placed on churches to break down barriers that prevent all people from worshiping together.

No other obstacle to congregational participation in worship looms larger than human resistance to change. It is instructive that even churches accustomed to authorized prayer books affirm "the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free" and admonish succeeding generations to change the forms of worship "according to the various exigencies of times and occasions."<sup>43</sup>

No book of worship or mimeographed service or spontaneously announced order of worship can assure that people will worship God in spirit and truth. In order for any of these forms to become more than disconnected dry bones of devotion, it is necessary that every Christian, inspired by the Holy Spirit, actively take his or her place in the body of Christ, the living and breathing community of faith that is "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people."<sup>44</sup>

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## MUSIC AND OTHER ARTS

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"The Christian liturgy was born singing and has never ceased to sing."<sup>45</sup> Music is a treasure of the people of God that has held a place of singular honor from Old Testament times to the present as a principal means by which praise and adoration are offered to God in communal worship. The psalter and other hymns of Israel testify to the power of vocal and instrumental music as artistic forms nobly suited to the celebration of God's saving deeds. In the New Testament, from the song of Mary to the hymn of the angels at Jesus' birth to Paul's great hymns about Christ to the trumpets and victorious doxology of the heavenly host in the book of Revelation, God's love for humanity is proclaimed in music that continues to fill the spheres.

The literature of the church of the first four centuries echoes the Bible's "joyful noise" and provides magnificent hymns. Augustine, a champion of sacred music, believed that those who sing pray twice. The Protestant reformers of the sixteenth century, although they held different views on the use of organs and other musical instruments, affirmed the singing of psalms as one means by which the priesthood of all believers may be expressed.<sup>46</sup> The Roman Catholic Church shares this view and has declared boldly that "the music tradition of the universal church is a treasure of immeasurable value, greater even than that of any other art."<sup>47</sup>

This *Book of Worship* honors the place of music in the continuing pilgrimage of the people of God and invites musicians to employ their art fully in the worship life of the church. Opportunity is given for the singing of hymns, psalms, anthems, or other parts of the liturgy. Provision is made for instrumental music, including the sounds of instruments other than the organ. Choirs, whether large or small in number, have a special responsibility to enrich the services with anthems and to lead the people in

congregational singing. Musicians who are diligent stewards of their art are knowledgeable concerning diverse ways of presenting hymns and psalms. They are able to open to the worshiping community the vast treasury of the church's sacred music.

It is the "task of the musician to bear the word faithfully," through music; it is the task of the worshiping congregation to offer musicians cooperation and support.<sup>48</sup> This requires an openness to learn new hymns and a willingness to grow in the breadth of understanding and appreciation of diverse styles of music. It calls for patience with congregational rehearsals and the commitment to serve on music committees, sing in choirs, and provide for the cost of the ministry of music.

Through full partnership in this ministry, the worshiping congregation is able to become an anthem of praise to God in words, acts, and sounds that unite the church in heaven and on earth.

Other forms of art also have their rightful place in the worship of God. The Old Testament honors silversmiths, cabinetmakers, architects, and other artisans who offered their skills to the glory of God. The New Testament affirms the diversity of human gifts and calls upon all Christians to use their talents for the common good in service rendered to God. The early church, worshiping in homes and later in simple buildings called the "Lord's" house, created symbols to announce the Christian message visually. Some frescoes and other works of art that were ancient symbols have survived to the present day.

Another element common to early Christian worship was the use of gesture and movement. Their Jewish heritage had steeped the first Christians in an appreciation of the body as an instrument of praise and supplication. Prayers were fulsome gestures, with participants' arms lifted high in out-reach to God. Celebrations of salvific events were seldom complete without a processional dance, whether solemn or exuberant in spirit. Prophets and rulers sought inspiration and expressed faithful dependence on God in movement and dance.<sup>49</sup> Psalms, and later Christian hymns, were often accompanied by the movement of the entire congregation in simple line or circle formations.<sup>50</sup>

As such expressions were lost or overtly secularized, liturgical use of movement was minimized, especially after the Reformation. The twentieth century church, particularly in the United States, has seen a renewal of interest in sacred dance.<sup>51</sup> Dancers and those who do not dance alike are engaged in this recovery of the biblical and early Christian sense of worship through movement, a type of discourse especially appropriate to express the rich diversity of spirit of the church year.<sup>52</sup>

A confession, an offertory, or a blessing in dance will be a new experience for some, so judicious planning and thoughtful preparation are needed when introducing movement into worship. When movement, such as a procession, is planned for the whole congregation, consideration must be given to the physical abilities of the people.

In creative partnership with the best of music and other arts, this form of praise is well adapted to both small and large churches. Through movement, many may come to appreciate the symbolic nature of truly embodied faith, fitting testimony to the presence of the Incarnate One.

The arts are not immune to abuse. Frequently the church has had to deal with the issue of artistic forms that obscure the gospel rather than proclaim it. This sometimes occurs with the space used for worship. Forms of worship change, but buildings yield to change reluctantly and usually only at considerable expense. Church architecture is a sermon in walls, floors, and ceilings. If its form no longer relevantly announces the good news of God's love that is celebrated in Christian worship, it is the responsibility of the people of God, with the assistance of able architects, to reform the space and rearrange or replace the furniture. Where this is not done, buildings erected to be servants of right worship become rulers that prohibit liturgical renewal or barriers to worshipers because of inaccessibility.

The proper use of the arts is one way the church celebrates creation as God's gift and echoes God's pronouncement that all that has been made is "good." To hearts of faith, the entire creation points to God. The arts are called to do the same. The signs through which the liturgical arts are expressed, including the literary signs of words printed in worship books, "are not there to reflect our own light. Neither are they themselves a source of light. They refract into our bodily and worldly existence a light that comes from elsewhere. They are not there to be seen but to be seen by. They are to open our eyes to other things."<sup>63</sup> The test of the liturgical arts is whether they merely point to themselves or whether they point to God and thereby summon worshipers to unite with their neighbors on the pilgrimage toward the holy city, the New Jerusalem not made by human hands, eternal in the heavens, whose builder and maker is God.

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## RELATIONSHIP OF THE CHURCH YEAR AND THE LECTORY

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Christians, from the New Testament age to the present, regard time not only as a product of nature but also as a parable of God's saving action in human history .The people of Israel, in an earlier age, transformed the festivals of Canaan's agricultural cycle into a sermon-in-time that proclaimed the Exodus and other saving events. In a similar way, the church transformed Jewish festivals and secular holidays into a calendar of salvation history.

The expectation of the early return of Jesus Christ conditioned the New Testament church on the side of restraint and simplicity in the development of its worship life.<sup>54</sup> Nevertheless, the New Testament itself contains the first evidence of the evolution of a calendar of holy days and of a schedule of readings for special occasions. Easter and Sunday, respectively, became the annual and weekly signposts in time of the resurrection of the crucified Christ. There is reason to believe that the Gospel of Mark is organized for the purpose of relating its contents to a pattern of readings for a primitive version of the

church year.<sup>55</sup> The very concept of such a schedule of readings, or a lectionary, was already an intrinsic part of the synagogue worship of Jesus' day.<sup>56</sup>

The relationship between the church year and the lectionary is more than coincidental.<sup>57</sup> When either is neglected, the other suffers as well.<sup>58</sup> The two are bound closely in their historical development. Although there was great diversity among the churches during the formative period of this development, there were also common factors. Consequently, by the end of the fourth century A.D., it is clear that various primitive lectionaries were in use, and that "before the Roman Empire had passed away, the majestic structure of the church year was established, representing the conquest for Christ of the invisible world of time."<sup>59</sup>

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## THE CHURCH YEAR

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The brief descriptions of the seasons and days of the church year are ordered here by current use rather than by their historical development.

Advent is the season of anticipation and preparation that precedes Christmas in the churches in the West. It was first identified in the fourth century by Hilary of Poitiers who indicated that it was observed for a three-week period in Gaul.<sup>60</sup> In some instances the season was related not to Christmas but to the older Eastern feast of Christ's birth, Epiphany.<sup>61</sup> In the Middle Ages, the Western church gradually reduced the period from an eighth-century pattern of six weeks to four weeks.

Now the first Sunday in Advent is the fourth Sunday before December 25. The focus of the season includes not only preparation for the anniversary of Christ's birth but also the anticipation of Christ's return at the close of history. The early festal nature of the season has been rediscovered in this generation.<sup>62</sup> Consequently, the penitential emphasis no longer dominates. The seasonal color, purple, announces Christ's royalty. In some traditions blue is used, jointly symbolizing royalty and hope.

Christmas, the festival day of the birth of Jesus Christ, falls on December 25 in the church in the West. This date in the ancient Roman calendar was observed as a winter solstice holiday associated with non-Christian rituals of light. By the year A.D. 354, the church in the West had transformed the day into the annual festival of the one born to be the Light of the World.<sup>63</sup> White, the color of the season, is appropriately used from Christmas Eve through at least the first Sunday in Epiphany. The season is one of joyful celebration. Epiphany, which means manifestation or disclosure, is observed on January 6. Its origins are rooted in the winter solstice holiday of the eastern regions of the Roman Empire. In Jerusalem, the day was transformed by the church into a festival of the incarnation.<sup>64</sup> Egeria, a Spanish woman of the fourth century, provided an eyewitness

account of the celebration of Epiphany in Bethlehem.<sup>65</sup> Although other Christians in the eastern provinces celebrated both Jesus' birth and baptism on this day, in the region of Jerusalem only the incarnation was observed.

At a very early time in the East, the visit of Jesus to the marriage feast of Cana became part of the Epiphany celebration.<sup>66</sup> In later developments in the West, the visit of the Magi became the predominant theme of the day. Today, these several strands continue to influence Epiphany, with the baptism of Jesus being observed on the first Sunday of the Epiphany season. Although the color of the day of Epiphany and the first Sunday of the season of Epiphany is white, different practices exist for the remainder of the season. Some churches, emphasizing the person of Christ, continue with white. Others, emphasizing the manifestation of Christ to the whole world, change to green from the second Sunday until the close of the season. Green is the color of the church in mission and symbolizes its life and growth. In some traditions, the last Sunday of the season is observed as the Festival of the Transfiguration, with white as the liturgical color.

Lent is a penitential season of self-examination, prayer, and fasting that precedes the observance of the Triduum (Maundy Thursday evening, Good Friday, and the Vigil of Easter which begins on Saturday night). In Western churches, the season opens on Ash Wednesday and consists of forty days excluding Sundays. The term *Lent* is derived from roots that mean *to lengthen*. The Lenten season points to the spring of the year and to the increasing daylight hours which spring brings.

Lent is first clearly documented in Canon Five of the Council of Nicaea (A.D. 325).<sup>67</sup> However, the practice of a pre-Easter period of discipline is much older. A century earlier, Hippolytus of Rome mentioned a two-and-one-half-week fast prior to Easter. In some places this season was the intensified period of preparation for those who were to be baptized on the eve of Easter.

The color for the season of Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday and including Sundays, is purple. Some traditions, however, recommend black for Ash Wednesday.

The earliest extant reference to Ash Wednesday is in the Gelasian Sacramentary of the seventh century. It is customary in some traditions to mark the forehead of Christians with ashes on this day. The use of ashes is based on several scriptural texts, including Genesis 3:19 and 18:27, Jeremiah 6:26, and Jonah 3:6.

Holy Week, beginning with Palm/Passion Sunday, marks the final week of Lent. Egeria described a procession to Bethany "six days before the Passover," on which occasion the story of the raising of Lazarus was read in anticipation of Christ's passion.<sup>68</sup> She placed the event on the Saturday before Palm Sunday. In the medieval period, churches in the West began to observe Passion Sunday on the Sunday before Palm Sunday.<sup>69</sup> In recent

calendar revisions, most churches have combined the Passion and Palm Sunday themes. They have reduced the Palm Sunday observance of Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem to an opening or entrance rite and have made the sixth Sunday in Lent predominantly an anticipation of Christ's passion. In some traditions the color recommended for Palm/Passion Sunday and the weekdays before Maundy Thursday is red. The color is reminiscent of martyrdom.

Maundy Thursday commemorates the institution of Holy Communion and the giving of the new commandment (*mandatum*) that people should love one another even as Christ Loves them (John 13:34-35). It also is an appropriate occasion for the rite of washing the feet. In most traditions the color for the day is white in keeping with the glad receiving of the gift of Holy Communion. In those churches where red is introduced on Palm/Passion Sunday, it may remain in use on Maundy Thursday. It is the custom of many churches at the conclusion of the last service on Maundy Thursday to strip the chancel of all paraments and altar hangings in preparation for Good Friday.

Good Friday and Easter, in the earliest celebrations of the church, were combined in a unified rite. Peter Cobb has stated: "Originally, when the Feast of Feasts emerges into the light of history in the second century, it is a unitive commemoration of the death and resurrection of the Lord,

a nocturnal celebration of a single night, constituting the Christian Passover.<sup>70</sup> However, very early, as Egeria attested, special services were held on Good Friday. She described a fourth century vigil at the site of the cross that began at noon and ended at 3:00 P.M.<sup>71</sup> This separation of the events of Good Friday from those of Easter Sunday, especially in the West, contributed to an emphasis on the death of Christ in the celebration of Holy Communion "to the exclusion of the resurrection and ascension."<sup>72</sup>

Easter, in the most ancient celebrations of the church, was a vigil service that began on Saturday night of Holy Week and extended into the dawn of Easter day. The Eastern church has preserved this order without interruption to the present time. In the West, the Easter Vigil is now being reintroduced in many churches. This nocturnal service announces with great power that "certainly the cross and resurrection, seen as a unity, did constitute the new Exodus."<sup>73</sup> White is the color for all the services of Easter Day and the Easter season, including the vigil. The services are the most joyful of all the celebrations of the church year. In many churches this Resurrection Day remains the principal festival on which Christian baptism is celebrated.

Pentecost, the fiftieth day after Easter, closes the Easter season. During this entire period of fifty days, the oldest of the seasons in the church, Egeria reported that "not a single person fasts."<sup>74</sup> Pentecost, borrowed from the Jewish calendar of feasts but transformed by the experience of the church described in Acts 2, originally combined the themes of Christ's ascension and the descent of the Holy Spirit. In the fourth century the two events were separated, and the ascension was placed on the fortieth day after Easter, a Thursday ten days before Pentecost.<sup>75</sup> The color for the day of Pentecost is red in vivid commemoration of the tongues of fire described in Acts 2.

In some churches the Sunday following Pentecost is observed as Trinity Sunday. However, this festival in observance of a doctrine about God rather than of an event in history lacks ancient precedent. Where it is celebrated, white is the usual color.

The Sundays following the day of Pentecost are usually identified by their numerical sequence: the first Sunday after Pentecost, etc. The seasonal color is green. This is the long season of the church in mission.<sup>76</sup> In some traditions the last Sunday in the season, the Sunday before Advent begins, is observed as the Festival of Christ the Sovereign. The color, white, associated with all the festivals of Christ's life, is used when this occurs.

The use of lectionaries or schedules of readings for particular days is one way the church has labored to guarantee that the story of the Christian faith is grounded in divine revelation and in history. Egeria wrote that on the weekly commemoration of Easter, "the bishop reads the Gospel of the Lord's resurrection at first cockcrow, as he does on every Sunday throughout the year."<sup>77</sup> It is not surprising, especially in the land of Christ's ministry, that special readings became attached to particular days, events, and places that eventually shaped the core of the church year.

The oldest extant manuscript of a lectionary currently available is one developed in Edessa in A.D. 475.<sup>78</sup> Considerable freedom was left to church leaders to choose readings spontaneously. However, as early as Augustine's time, there is evidence that the people frowned upon any departure from the scheduled readings for major holy days.<sup>79</sup> The earliest fully developed lectionary now known is that of Alcuin of York. It dates to A.D. 790 and includes readings for the major festival days, the Sundays within the seasons, and for twenty-four Sundays after Pentecost.<sup>80</sup>

In the sixteenth century, most Protestant reformers at first retained the old Roman lectionary. However, a preference soon developed for the continuous reading of the Bible in sequence, leading to the widespread custom in reformed churches of leaving the choice of readings to the clergy. By 1758, a lay person in the Church of Scotland criticized the clergy for choosing the readings arbitrarily, so as to "mangle them" and "make them say" what the preacher desired.<sup>81</sup> In the past two hundred years, diverse lectionaries have been developed by the churches of the Reformation. In some instances the old Roman lectionary was revived and revised.

In the twentieth century, a resurgence of biblical scholarship moved the churches to reexamine the question of a lectionary. The Roman Catholic Church, in response to the reforms mandated by the Second Vatican Council, published a new three-year lectionary in 1969. This lectionary contained three readings and a psalm for each major Christian festival and for all Sundays of the year. The reintroduction of an Old Testament reading, along with the Epistle and Gospel selections, corrected a deficiency that dates to the fifth century.

This contemporary lectionary, acclaimed and significantly revised by representatives of the churches participating in the Consultation on Common Texts, holds great promise

for gaining widespread acceptance in North America and throughout the English-speaking world. This *Common Lectionary* contains a valuable introduction in which its history, structure, and function are carefully explained.<sup>82</sup>

The *Common Lectionary* is commended to all local churches of the United Church of Christ for study and use. Its schedule of readings is published annually in the *United Church of Christ Desk Calendar and Plan Book*.

Why use a lectionary in a denomination that cherishes the freedom of its local churches to order their worship according to their own norms? One reason is that given by the Second Vatican Council and affirmed by uncounted voices throughout the ecumenical church: "The treasures of the Bible are to be opened up more lavishly so that richer fare may be provided for the faithful at the table of God's Word. In this way a more representative portion of the holy scriptures will be read to the people over a set cycle of years."<sup>83</sup> In local churches in which the *Common Lectionary* is used, worshipers are assured of hearing in the period of three years most of the Old Testament and practically all the New Testament.

The readings are ordered, in part, by the selection of Old Testament readings that are thematically related to the Gospel for the day, with a semicontinuous reading of the assigned Epistle. In some seasons a more continuous reading of the Old Testament is provided. The Psalms, once the honored hymn book of Reformation churches, are reintroduced and coordinated thematically with the Old Testament reading. Where non-canonical readings are indicated, alternate selections from the canonical scriptures are included.

Among the benefits of the *Common Lectionary*, few are more coveted than the sharing of the same Bible readings on any given occasion by Christians who worship in different communions but are called to live their faith in a common world. The use of the lectionary makes it possible for laity as well as clergy, ecumenically if they wish, to study the readings with others prior to hearing them offered in worship. It holds the promise of allowing the full message of the Bible to address the attentive heart that is open not only to favored texts but also to the entire word of God.

The church year and the lectionary deserve thoughtful use, not because they are law. They witness to the Word made flesh and enable the church to proclaim faithfully the story it has been told, the story that it lives, and the story that it is privileged to tell to the end of time.

Faithfulness to God's call in Jesus Christ requires that Christians respond in timely ways to the One who is the same yesterday, today, and for ever. This *Book of Worship*, like all books of worship, is transitional literature. It seeks to provide a small span in the bridge that will traverse and link the worshiping church of the twentieth century with the church of the past and the church of the twenty-first century. To the extent that it serves faithfully in this endeavor, it deserves careful study, prayerful reflection, and imaginative use.

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## NOTES

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All adaptations in this book were by the United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership.

1. Luke 10:27; see also Deuteronomy 6:4-5.
2. H. Strathmann, "Leitourgeo and Leitourgia in the New Testament," in *Theologica[Dictionary of the New Testament*, ed. Gerhard Kittel, trans. G. W. Bromiley (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1967), 4:226-228.
3. Amos 5:21-24, Matthew 25:31-46, Romans 12.
4. Luke 10:27-37; see also Leviticus 19:18.
5. J.D. Crichton, "A Theology of Worship," in *The Study of Liturgy*, ed. Cheslyn Jones et al. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1978), 7ff. For worship as the recapitulation of salvation history, see J.J. von Allmen, *Worship: Its Theology and Practice* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1965), 32.
6. R. T. Beckwith, "The Jewish Background to Christian Worship," in *Study of Liturgy*, ed.

- Jones et al., 41ff. See also John C. Shetler et al., *Handbook on Worship* (Committee on Worship, Division of Church and Ministry, Pennsylvania Southeast Conference, United Church of Christ, 1981), 3-5.
7. Lucien Deiss, *Springtime of the Liturgy*, trans. M.J. O'Connell (Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical Press, 1967), 3-19. See also Ilion T. Jones, *A Historical Approach to Evangelical Worship* (New York: Abingdon Press, 1954), 37-52.
8. Deiss, *Springtime of the Liturgy*, 26, and Beckwith, "Jewish Background," 43.
9. Dom Gregory Dix, *The Shape of the Liturgy* (Westminster: Dacre Press, 1954), 336-337.
10. Acts 15.
11. Deiss, *Springtime of the Liturgy*, 73ff., 123ff. See also Charles Yrigoyen, Jr., and George E. Bricker, eds., *Catholic and Reformed: Selected Writings of John Williamson Nevin* (Pittsburgh: Pickwick Press, 1978), 327.
12. Dix, *Shape of the Liturgy*, 5, 103ff.
13. Deiss, *Springtime of the Liturgy*, 123-127.
14. Marion J. Hatchett, *Commentary on the American Prayer Book* (Minneapolis: Seabury Press, 1980), 3.
15. Hatchett, *Commentary*, 5, and D.H. Tripp, "Protestantism and the Eucharist," in *Study of Liturgy*, Jones, 257-259.
16. Massey Hamilton Shepherd, Jr., "The History of the Liturgical Renewal," in *The Liturgical Renewal of the Church*, ed. Theodore Otto Wedel et al. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1960), 21ff.
17. Karl Barth, *The Knowledge of God and the Service of God According to the Teaching of the Reformation*, 211ff., cited in A. Allan McArthur, *The Christian Year and the Lectionary* (London: S.C.M. Press, 1958), 21-22.
18. *Baptism. Eucharist and Ministry*, Faith and Order Paper No.111 (Geneva: World Council of Churches, 1982), paragraph 12, p. 12.
19. Quoted and discussed in Paul Whitman Hoon, *The Integrity of Worship* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1971), 47ff.
20. Massey H. Shepherd, Jr., "Liturgy and Ecumenism," in *Ecumenical Trends* 10 (May 1981): 68.
21. *The Lord's Day Service* (Philadelphia: United Church Press, 1964), 5.
22. *A Book of Worship for Free Churches* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1948), v.
23. *Book of Worship* (Evangelical and Reformed Church) (St. Louis: Eden Publishing House, 1947), 3-4. Copyright renewed by United Church Press.
24. Hebrews 13:8, adapted.
25. For example, see the discussion of the womb of God in Jurgen Moltmann, "The Motherly Father. Is Trinitarian Patripassianism Replacing Theological Patriarchalism?" *Concilium* (New York: Seabury Press, 1981), 143: 51- 56. See also Phyllis Trible, "The Nature of God," in *The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*, Supplementary Volume, ed. Keith Grim et al. (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1976), 368-369.
26. *Inclusive Language Guidelines for Use and Study in the United Church of Christ* (New York: United Church of Christ, 1980), 1-2.
27. It is especially important that words like *blind*, *black*, *poor*, and others not be used judgmentally. Likewise, optional directions concerning standing, sitting, kneeling, or movement should take into account the physical limitations of leaders and members of

the congregation. Where fermented wine is used for Holy Communion, grape juice should be available for alcoholic individuals and others who wish to abstain from the use of alcoholic beverages.

28. Geoffrey Wainwright, "Recent Eucharistic Revision," in *Study of Liturgy*, Jones, 287.
29. "Eucharist with Children: Report of the Bad Segeberg Consultation," in *And Do Not Hinder Them*, ed. Geiko Muller-Fahrenholz, Faith and Order Paper No.109 (Geneva: World Council of Churches, 1982),14-15.
30. Karl Heinrich Bierritz, "The Lord's Supper as Sacrament of Fellowship," in Muller-Fahrenholz, *And Do Not Hinder Them*, 41.
31. Bierritz, "Supper as Sacrament," 45.
32. *Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry*, commentary on paragraph 19, p. 15.
33. William H. Willimon, *The Service of God* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1983), 185.
34. John 12:32, *King James Version*, adapted.
35. Hatchett, *Commentary*,4.
36. J. Edgar Park, *The Miracle of Preaching* (New York: Macmillan Co., 1936), 113, quoted in (Kenneth G. Phifer, *A Protestant Case for Liturgical Renewal* (Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1965), 107.
37. Hugh T. Kerr, ed., *A Compend of the Institutes of the Christian Religion by John Calvin* (Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1964), 177-178, quoted in Phifer, *Protestant Case*, 74.
38. Henry Martyn Dexter, *A Handbook of Congregationalism* (Boston: Congregational Publishing House, 1880), 88.
39. Stanley Samuel Harakas, *Living the Liturgy* (Minneapolis: Light and Life Publishing Co., 1974), 7.
40. Walter M. Abbot, ed., *Documents of Vatican II* (New York: Guild Press, 1966), 144.
41. Abbot, *Documents of Vatican II*, 144.
42. Bard Thompson, *Liturgies of the Western Church* (New York: Meridian, 1961), 194.
43. The Episcopal Church, *The Book of Common Prayer* (New York: Church Hymnal Corp. and Seabury Press, 1977), 9.
44. I Peter 2:9.
45. Joseph Gelineau, "Music and Singing in the Liturgy," in *Study of Liturgy*, Jones, 440.
46. Philip H. Pfatteicher and Carlos R. Messerli, *Manual on the Liturgy-Lutheran Book of Worship* (Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1979), 79.
47. Abbot, *Documents of Vatican II*, 171.
48. Pfatteicher and Messerli, *Manual on Liturgy*, 81.
49. Exodus 15:19-21 and 2 Samuel 6:12-15.
50. See Constance Fisher and Doug Adams, *Dancing with Early Christians* (Austin, Texas: Sharing Co., 1983); Doug Adams, *Congregational Dancing in Christian Worship*, rev. ed. (Austin, Texas: Sharing Co., 1984); and Margaret Taylor and Doug Adams, *Hymns in Action for Everyone 9 to 90 Dancing Today* (Austin, Texas: Sharing Co., 1985).
51. United Church of Christ laywoman Margaret Taylor pioneered in this area with her early works now reprinted, *Look Up and Live: Dance as Prayer and Meditation*, ed. Doug Adams (Austin, Texas: Sharing Co., 1980), and *A Time to Dance: Symbolic Movement in Worship*, ed. Doug Adams (Austin, Texas: Sharing Co.,1980).

52. See Marian B. MacLeod, *Dancing Through Pentecost: Dance Language from Pentecost to Thanksgiving*, ed. Doug Adams (Austin, Texas: Sharing Co., 1981), and Dane Packard, *The Church Becoming Christ's Body: The Small Church's Manual of Dances for Holy Seasons*, ed. Doug Adams (Austin, Texas: Sharing Co., 1981). Movement can be used creatively to celebrate the gifts of groups of different ages, cultural backgrounds, and degrees of physical mobility.
53. Joseph Gelineau, *The Liturgy Today and Tomorrow*, trans. Diana Livingstone (London: Darton, Longman and Todd, 1979), 121.
54. Dix, *Shape of the Liturgy*, 305-335.
55. Philip Carrington, *The Primitive Church Calendar, a Study in the Making of the Marcan Gospel* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1952), 1:16.
56. A. Allan McArthur, *The Christian Year and Lectionary Reform* (London: S.C.M. Press, 1958), 38.
57. See Horace T. Allen, Jr., "Introduction," in *Common Lectionary: The Lectionary Proposed by the Consultation on Common Texts* (New York: Church Hymnal Corp., 1983), 10.
58. McArthur, *Christian Year and Lectionary*, 11.
59. McArthur, *Christian Year and Lectionary*, 11. See also Dix, *Shape of the Liturgy*, 329.
60. Peter Cobb, "Calendar," in *Study of Liturgy*, Jones, 415.
61. McArthur, *Christian Year and Lectionary*, 76.
62. Cobb, "Calendar," 418.
63. A. Allan McArthur, *The Evolution of the Christian Year* (Greenwich, Conn.: Seabury Press, 1953), 42.
64. McArthur, *Evolution of the Christian Year*, 53.
65. John Wilkinson, trans., *Egeria's Travels to the Holy Land* (Jerusalem: Ariel Publishing House, 1981), 25:12.
66. McArthur, *Evolution of Christian Year*, 66-67.
67. Cobb, "Calendar," 413.
68. Wilkinson, *Egeria*, 29.
69. Edward T. Horn, III, *The Christian Year* (Philadelphia: Muhlenberg Press, 1957), 112.
70. Cobb, "Calendar," 407.
71. Wilkinson, *Egeria*, 37:6.
72. Dix, *Shape of the Liturgy*, 349.
73. McArthur, *Evolution of Christian Year*, 79.
74. Wilkinson, *Egeria*, 41.
75. Cobb, "Calendar," 411.
76. See the discussion concerning ordinary time in Allen, "Introduction," 11, 22, and in the same volume, "Comparative List of Titles for Sundays and Special Days," 51-53.
77. Wilkinson, *Egeria*, 22:2.
78. McArthur, *Christian Year and Lectionary*, 51.
79. G.G. Willis, *St. Augustine's Lectionary* (London: S.P.C.K., 1962), 9.
80. Dix, *Shape of the Liturgy*, 364.
81. McArthur, *Christian Year and Lectionary*, 27.

82. See *Common Lectionary: The Lectionary Proposed by the Consultation on Common Texts* (New York: Church Hymnal Corp., 1983). This lectionary is provisional until testing has been completed in 1989.

83. Abbot, *Documents of Vatican II*, paragraph 51, p. 155.